(b) and (c) Regular intake of higher amount of metals in diet are injurious to health. There is a need to educate the farmers to adopt Good Agricultural Practices for production of crops including integrated pest management.

Shortage of anaesthetists in Government hospitals

4522. SHRI R. KAMARAJ :
SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA :

Will theMinister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the shortage of anaesthetists in Government hospitals, especially in rural areas is responsible for a large number of maternal deaths;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that due to lack of future prospects, incumbents do not choose this line as their career;

(d) if so, the details of the efforts made by Government to make this profession lucrative in view of the future requirements; and

(e) the action taken by Government to appoint more anaesthetists in Government hospitals especially in rural areas to save the life of poor people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) and (b) The complications associated with pregnancy and childbirth are not always predictable and in many cases immediate treatment of pregnant women at adequately equipped and staffed referral centres/ hospitals becomes necessary to save her life. One of the major problems being faced in provision of emergency obstetric care in rural areas has been the non-availability of post of specialist in Anaesthesia at the Community Health Centres (CHCs) level. CHCs have sanctioned post of only four other specialists such as General Medicine, paediatrics, Obstetrics and Gynaecologist.

(c) to (e) As per available information, the post-graduate seats in the speciality of anaesthesia are readily taken up by the under-graduate doctors. However, keeping the need for doctors trained in anaesthesia for provision of emergency obstetric care in view, the following initiatives have been taken as part of the Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) Programme :

(i) The States have been asked to increase the number of seats in Diploma course for Anaesthesia in consultation with Medical Council of India (MCI). Funds for this have been committed by Government of India.

(ii) To tide over the immediate needs, States have been permitted to engage the anaesthetists from the private sector on a payment of

Rs. 1000/- per case for emergency obstetrict cases at the sub-district and CHC levels.

(iii) An 18 weeks training programme for training of MBBS doctors on Life Saving Anaesthetic Skills for Emergency Obstetric care has been initiated on a pilot basis at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences. Based on the experience from this pilot programme, it will be extended to other medical colleges in the country.

Fast track approval of drugs

4523. SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI :
SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that some of the new drugs are also being cleared on fast track basis;

(b) the criteria for the selection of drugs for fast track approvals; and

(c) what are the names of the experts under different categories to whom such applications are referred for expert opinion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) and (b) Certain critical drugs like anti-cancer, anti-HIV/anti-retrovirals and Immuno-suppressants etc. which are critical from the point of view of public health, are cleared on a fast track basis. This is however, subject to the submission of all required data as per provisions of Schedule Y of Drugs and Cosmetics Rules and opinion from the experts.

(c) The experts are mainly the Heads of Departments of the subjects concerned in various renowned Medical Institutions/Government hospitals in the country, renowned Medical Oncologists and experts from NACO etc.

Films shown for creating social awareness

4524. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE :
SHRIMATI CHANDRA KALA PANDEY :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) how many films were shown during the last two years in West Bengal, Assam, Orissa and Tripura for creating social awareness;

(b) whether any target was fixed in this regard;

(c) if so, whether the same has been achieved; and